NASA ADVISORY COUNCIL

Technology & Innovation Committee Report

NASA Advisory Council Meeting
February 18-19, 2010

NASA Headquarters
Washington, DC

The initial meeting of the Technology & Innovation Committee of the NASA Advisory Council took place on February 11, 2010, at NASA Ames Research Center. The meeting ran from 9:00 am until adjournment at 6:00 pm.

In addition to the required Ethics briefing, the Committee heard a series of briefings including:

A presentation by NASA's new Chief Technologist, Mr.Bobby Braun, entitled,
> *Space Technology in NASA's FY2011 President's Budget Request and the new Office of the Chief Technologist at NASA Headquarters*

The Committee also heard a briefing, by Mr. Ed Lu of Google, entitled,
> *Earth and space: NASA and Google: How does each look from the vantage point of the other? Differences between NASA and Google.*

Next Mr.Braun and Mr. Mike Ryschkewitsch (NASA Chief Engineer) joined the committee in a discussion of the emerging Space Technology Program.

Later that afternoon Dr. Paul Hertz (Chief Scientist for the Science Mission Directorate) and Dr. Tom Edwards (Director of Aeronautics at Ames Research Center) talked about technology and innovation processes in their respective directorates.   This was followed by a discussion on various barriers to innovation and how the Committee might be helpful.

One of the key roles that the Committee identified will be to support Mr. Braun in his efforts to foster a culture of innovation to NASA.

The President's FY 2011 budget proposes a specific allocation of almost $5 billion to NASA over the next five years for new projects, and Mr. Braun will also be working with all the directorates on their innovation/technology efforts.

There was general agreement that the Technology & Innovation Committee should focus its efforts on fostering innovation and a culture of risk tolerance (where appropriate) *throughout* NASA, not just in "innovation" programs, while recognizing the crucial, countervailing pressure of sustaining a culture of human safety.

Finally, the Committee discussed the Terms of Reference and the emerging Work Plan for CY 2010.

Overall, this initial meeting provided a useful introduction of people and ideas. Given the fact that NASA's budget is in flux and many of the Committee's likely recommendations depend on it, the Committee adjourned with no formal recommendations to bring to the Council … but with a great sense of confidence in NASA's leadership.